

Message Text

PAGE 01 TEHRAN 01556 260833Z

11
ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /031 W
----- 037951
R 260800Z FEB 74
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5548

C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 1556

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR IR
SUBJ: AMERICAN TV MENTION OF CORRUPTION IS IRAN

1. COURT MINISTER ALAM CALLED ME EVENING FEBRUARY 25
TO SAY THAT TWO TV NETWORKS, NBC AND CBS, HAD BEEN
MENTIONING OR RUNNING MATERIAL ON THE SUBJECT OF CORRUPTION
IN IRAN. ALAM COULD NOT BE MORE PRECISE ABOUT WHAT
PROGRAMS WERE INVOLVED. HE WAS OBVIOUSLY CALLING ON
BEHALF OF THE SHAH WHO WANTS TO KNOW THE ANSWERS TO THE
USUAL QUESTIONS: WHAT IS THE SOURCE OF THESE ALLEGATIONS?
WHO IS BRIEFING THE TV CORRESPONDENTS? IS THE BRIEFING OCCURRING
IN THE UNITED STATES OR IRAN? WHAT "AWKWARD ELEMENTS" MAY
BE CONTRIBUTING TO THIS? COULD IT BE THE AMERICAN EMBASSY
IN TEHRAN (TO WHICH I QUICKLY ANSWERED "NO")? IN SHORT,
WHY THESE BROADCASTS NOW AND WHAT IS BEHIND THEM?

2. WE HERE CAN FIND NOTHING NEW WHICH WOULD HAVE
GENERATED SUCH MATERIAL. WHEN MIKE WALLACE CAME THROUGH,
HE TOSSED OFF SOME COMMENT TO THE EFFECT, "IS CORRUPTION
AS BAD IN IRAN AS IT ALWAYS WAS? IN ANY EVENT, PERHAPS

BOB MCCLOSKEY COULD TURN UP SOMETHING USEFUL FROM HIS
SOURCES. I HOPE HE WILL TRY.

3. PLEASE ADVISE.
HELMS

CONFIDENTIAL

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Message Attributes

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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Authority: golinofr
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Disposition Reason:
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